GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5052
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2001
EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export of agricultural products during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) whether the export has declined in comparison to the previous years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are taking some steps for bringing qualitative improvements in these agricultural products to avoid rejection of these products abroad; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) : The total export of agricultural products (incl. Tea, coffee, marine, castor oil, cotton) for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-01are given as below:

(Value:Rs. crores)

Year	Agricultural exports
1999-2000 (Apr-March)	23823
2000-01 (Apr.-Dec.)	18714
1999-2000 (Apr.-Dec.)	18097

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta.

The details of quantity & value of each of the agricultural product and the countries to which exported are available in monthly/annual number of foreign trade statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) Calcutta copies of which are placed in the Parliament Library.

(b) : The agricultural exports for the period (April-Dec.) 2000-01 have increased in comparison to the corresponding period of the year 1999-2000.

(c): Does not arise.

(d) & (e) : Yes, Sir. Some of the steps taken for qualitative improvement in agro products with a view to boost their exports and to avoid their rejection in the foreign markets include:

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old plantations, area expansion, improving productivity and training of farmers.

2. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000/HACCP of processing units.

3. Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for eliminating pest incubation in the product especially mangoes for gaining access to overseas markets;

4. Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits, vegetables & floriculture products;

5. Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centers, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;

6. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination & ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.

7 Transfer of production technology through field demonstration and farmers training for the use of critical inputs such as seed, implements, contingencies, assistance for water saving devices like drip in cotton and sugarcane schemes, moist heat seed treatment unit in sugarcane etc.

8. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

9. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.

10. Development of standards for export of agro products along with monitoring plans for permissible residue levels.